

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES**

July 14, 2003



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EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor

Gordon C. Duke, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Debra Eucker, Commissioner, Department of Law, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Charles Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive

Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff

Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

The enclosed report prepared by Ross & Company, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, presents the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 14, 2003.

We engaged Ross & Company, PLLC, to perform the financial audit of this statement. We worked closely with the firm during our report review process; Ross & Company, PLLC, evaluated the Russell County Sheriff's internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett".

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure



**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES**

July 14, 2003

ROSS & COMPANY, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
800 Envoy Circle
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Telephone (502) 499-9088
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES

July 14, 2003

Ross & Company, PLLC, has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes for Russell County Sheriff as of July 14, 2003. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$3,995,853 for the districts for 2002 taxes, retaining commissions of \$164,874 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$3,831,159 to the districts for 2002 Taxes. Taxes of \$5 are due to the state and refunds of \$185 are due to the Sheriff from the taxing districts.

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

CONTENTS

PAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT | 1 |
| SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES | 3 |
| NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT | 5 |
| REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS | 9 |

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Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 14, 2003. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Russell County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Russell County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of July 14, 2003, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

To the People of Kentucky
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Gordon C. Duke, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Debra Eucker, Commissioner, Department of Law, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Charles Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive
Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated November 13, 2003, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross & Company", written in a cursive style.

Ross & Company, PLLC

Audit fieldwork completed -
November 13, 2003

RUSSELL COUNTY
LARRY BENNETT, COUNTY SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES

July 14, 2003

| <u>Charges</u> | <u>County Taxes</u> | <u>Special Taxing Districts</u> | <u>School Taxes</u> | <u>State Taxes</u> |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Real Estate | \$ 298,535 | \$ 677,274 | \$ 1,728,830 | \$ 603,026 |
| Tangible Personal Property | 32,705 | 82,935 | 154,282 | 169,532 |
| Intangible Personal Property | | | | 58,787 |
| Fire Protection | 2,628 | | | |
| Increases Through Exonerations | 79 | 179 | 454 | 166 |
| Omitted Taxes | 14 | 31 | 82 | 28 |
| Franchise Corporation Taxes | 40,483 | 99,724 | 194,927 | |
| Additional Billings | 151 | 339 | 895 | 308 |
| Oil and Gas Property Taxes | 50 | 113 | 287 | 100 |
| Penalties | 2,414 | 5,490 | 13,751 | 4,928 |
| Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt | 20 | 191 | 223 | (115) |
| Gross Chargeable to Sheriff | <u>\$ 377,079</u> | <u>\$ 866,276</u> | <u>\$ 2,093,731</u> | <u>\$ 836,760</u> |
| <u>Credits</u> | | | | |
| Exonerations | \$ 1,906 | \$ 4,463 | \$ 10,471 | \$ 3,685 |
| Discounts | 4,725 | 10,746 | 26,653 | 12,462 |
| Delinquents: | | | | |
| Real Estate | 6,784 | 15,329 | 39,130 | 13,615 |
| Tangible Personal Property | 2,790 | 7,076 | 13,162 | 4,738 |
| Intangible Personal Property | | | | 258 |
| Total Credits | <u>\$ 16,205</u> | <u>\$ 37,614</u> | <u>\$ 89,416</u> | <u>\$ 34,758</u> |
| Taxes Collected | \$ 360,874 | \$ 828,662 | \$ 2,004,315 | \$ 802,002 |
| Less: Commissions * | <u>15,625</u> | <u>34,703</u> | <u>80,173</u> | <u>34,372</u> |
| Taxes Due | \$ 345,249 | \$ 793,959 | \$ 1,924,142 | \$ 767,630 |
| Taxes Paid | 345,253 | 794,012 | 1,924,270 | 767,624 |
| Refunds (Current and Prior Year) | | | | <u>1</u> |
| Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff) | | ** | | |
| as of Completion of Fieldwork | <u>\$ (4)</u> | <u>\$ (53)</u> | <u>\$ (128)</u> | <u>\$ 5</u> |

*

and ** See page 4.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

RUSSELL COUNTY
 LARRY BENNETT, COUNTY SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2002 TAXES
 July 14, 2003
 (Continued)

| | | |
|----------|----|-----------|
| 10% on | \$ | 10,000 |
| 4.25% on | \$ | 1,775,490 |
| 4% on | \$ | 2,210,363 |

** Special Taxing Districts:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|-------------|
| Library District | \$ | (8) |
| Health District | | (2) |
| Extension District | | (6) |
| Soil Conservation District | | (2) |
| Ambulance District | | (13) |
| Hospital District | | <u>(22)</u> |

| | | |
|--|----|--------------------|
| Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff) | \$ | <u><u>(53)</u></u> |
|--|----|--------------------|

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

RUSSELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

July 14, 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of July 14, 2003, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

RUSSELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 14, 2003
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2002. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2003. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 24, 2002 through April 30, 2003.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Russell County Sheriff earned \$2,112 as interest income on 2002 taxes. As of November 13, 2003, the Sheriff is due \$21 in interest from the school district and owes \$21 in interest to his fee account.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Russell County Sheriff collected \$21,466 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of November 13, 2003, the Sheriff owes \$961 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Russell County Sheriff collected \$1,988 of advertising costs and \$2,280 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of November 13, 2003, the Sheriff owes \$63 in advertising costs to the county.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

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Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 14, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated November 13, 2003. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2002 Taxes as of July 14, 2003 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Russell County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross & Company".

Ross & Company, PLLC

Audit fieldwork completed -
November 13, 2003

